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The FitzCenter
for Leadership in Community

COMMUNITY LEADER

FITZ CENTER 10th ANNIVERSARY

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EDUCATION. EXPERIENCE. ACTION.

BY BETHANY RENNER, RIVER STEWARD STUDENT INTERN

This past summer stayed true to the River Stewards' motto: *Education. Experience. Action.* Eight summer interns lived and worked together to carry out the development of the Rivermobile, a mobile learning center built in a tractor trailer. The concept was developed in 2008 by a Rivers Institute committee of students, faculty and community partners. The enthusiasm and commitment to educational outreach by River Stewards has been fueled by the gracious support of Dayton Power & Light.

The purpose of the Rivermobile is to show participants that "our rivers make us special." The project's purpose stays close to the Rivers Institute's vision to foster a stronger connection between

Dayton and its rivers. Through lessons staged inside and out of the mobile unit, river-related topics will be presented in tangible and interactive ways. The topics have been narrowed down through a series of student-driven meetings and benchmarking trips. Weekly summer meetings steered the production of ideas and trips to various museums. In addition, teaching lessons at Adventure Central's summer camp jumpstarted the interns' creativity.

With the help of faculty and community partners, goals and learning objectives for K-12 students and undergraduates taking part in the experience were written. Learning objectives serve as a guide to what specific information

teachers may want students to take away from the experience. Grades 6-8 will be the primary target group as the future curriculum is developed. However, the interns researched how to shape this type of educational experience and museum exhibit design for all ages.

As part of an initial education in museum and exhibit design, the summer interns took to the road with trips to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) and the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. At each stop, exhibit development and production experts shared their insights into designing museum experiences. Their guidance has provided information on how best to convey information resourcefully and how to design in a small space successfully.

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River Stewards (from left) Bethany Renner, AJ Ferguson, Laura Mustee, Alex Galluzzo, Jenny Biette and interim coordinator Maggie Varga after touring and talking with museum design experts at COSI in Columbus. Not pictured are Sarah Peterson, Taylor Pair, Nicole Goettemoeller, and Lindsay Rynne.



EYE-OPENING SUMMER AT DAYBREAK BY MEREDITH HIRT '13


Instead of attending summer classes, 10 students lived on campus and worked full time at local nonprofit social services agencies through the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community program Semester of Service. **Amanda Zengel '12** and **Stephen MacKell '13** both spent their time at Daybreak.

"If one person needs something, we help, no matter how random," Amanda said. Daybreak is committed to helping youth in crisis by providing basic necessities for people on the street, shelter for those with nowhere to go and an intensive program designed to prepare young adults for successful lives on their own. Among other things, Amanda and Stephen ran the computer lab and helped with employment assistance.

Stephen was drawn to Daybreak because he wants to understand homelessness issues in the Miami Valley. "It's hard to wrap my head around the social situations these kids come from," he said. "Add up all the worst things

kids could go through and they've been there." Amanda, who helped with counseling, agrees.

That's why the two love to see the positive impact Daybreak makes on its participants. Amanda recently got a call from a young man who finally landed a job. "He was so excited ... and he knew I'd be proud of him," she said. Stephen has helped move clients from Daybreak's housing into their own apartments and witnessed their changed sense of self. "It's kind of like graduating," he said, "like 'Welcome to responsible adulthood.'"

Amanda described Daybreak as a social place, almost like a dorm room. The 10 Semester of Service students enjoyed their own community this summer, living in two neighboring houses. The social settings of Daybreak and UD were vastly different, though. "There's such close proximity of these kids to a place like UD ... it makes you wonder," Stephen said. 




Semester of Service students, from left: Megan Glankler '12, Stephen Mackell '13, Angela Mastandrea '13, Leah Schumacher '11, Jenn Churik '13, Emily McCauley '13, Amanda Zengel '12, Seth Richardson '12, Bonnie King '12 and Kevin Sullivan '13.

Continued from Page 1

RIVERS

Potential Rivermobile lessons were put into action over four weeks at Adventure Central with sixth- and seventh-grade campers. A result of a River Leadership Curriculum semester project, the experience allowed the team to test what topics interest students and what works best with each age group. The lessons included Dayton river history, watershed information and map-reading skills.

Each experience added a new piece of knowledge to help guide the planning of the mobile learning center. Three months of extensive research has not only furthered development of the project, it has shown eight River Stewards that the motto stands true. By pursuing the project, the education and experiences that resulted from it will continue to result in actions that promote Dayton's rivers. 



Senior Alex Galluzzo shows Adventure Central campers how to make an edible aquifer.


NEW DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS SUMMER ORIENTATION, FALL PLANS

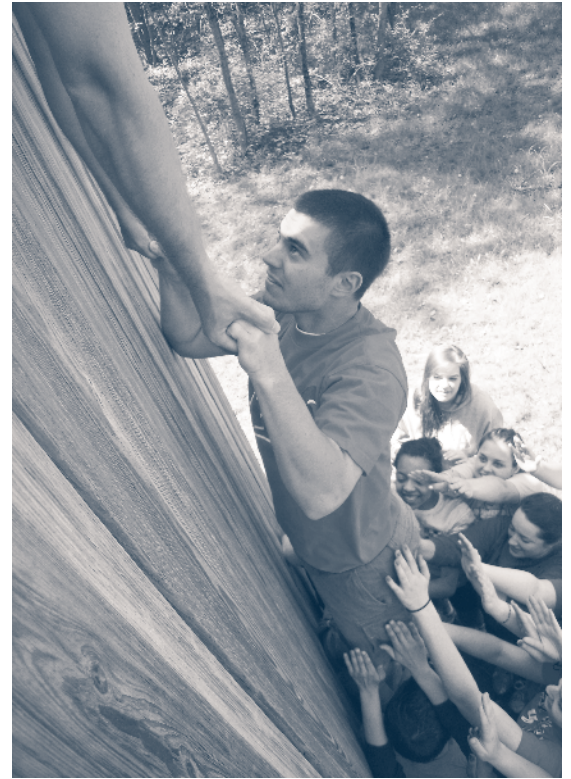
BY ALEXANDRA ROBINSON, GRADUATE ASSISTANT

The Fitz Center is excited to welcome 17 new students to the Dayton Civic Scholars, the largest class in program history. The incoming class participated in a four-day leadership orientation over the summer holiday where the new Civic Scholars learned about the region's economic, cultural and natural assets, Dayton's political landscape and urban neighborhoods. The orientation included outdoor team-building activities. Much of the Dayton Civic Scholar experience focuses on the importance of building relationships in community, and a full day on the ropes course at Joy Outdoor Education Center tested the students' ability to work as a team and helped the group to form close bonds.

The Civic Scholars program has traditionally attracted social science majors. The intent is to broaden participation, so it is encouraging to have three students from the School of Education and Allied Professions joining the program.

The Dayton Civic Scholars values a diversity of disciplinary and professional perspectives, and the program hopes to continue to appeal to students from a wider variety of majors.

As the new graduate assistant to the Civic Scholars, I am looking forward to building on the hard work of the former DCS coordinators to create a social science program focusing on community leadership and public service, while working with the DCS Advisory Committee to expand the scope of the program to prepare community leaders in any profession. The Fitz Center aims to expose all of our students to the art and skill of building community, and, as a three-year program, the Dayton Civic Scholars program is uniquely positioned to help students hone the community-building skills necessary to become leaders of civic engagement in their communities and professions. 



Dayton Civic Scholars spend a full day of orientation on the ropes course at Joy Outdoor Education Center.

Alumna news

ALLISON KRETZ
DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLAR
CLASS OF 2008

I was selected as finalist for the Presidential Management Fellows Program. It gives graduate students selective access to two-year fellowships with a variety of federal agencies. Right now I'm in the process of interviewing for positions, so I have yet to be appointed to any particular position, but it looks like I'll end up in one of HUD's offices. I graduated from UD in 2008 as a sociology major and from Case Western Reserve University School of Law with my juris doctorate.

What are you up to? Send your update to ramirezfranciss1@notes.udayton.edu.

DCS welcomes new coordinator

BY ALEXANDRA ROBINSON '08

As a 2008 UD alumna, I am delighted to be back on campus and joining the Fitz Center team to work with the Dayton Civic Scholars. For the last three years, I have worked for The Kettering Foundation, a local nonprofit that researches civic engagement efforts around the world, and I am thrilled to be able to bring this experience to the task of working with the Dayton Civic Scholars. It is very gratifying to be able to work with the Fitz Center, an organization that takes community building as its core mission and conceptualizes community development as a process of relationship building. While at UD, I will also be pursuing a master's degree in the School of Education and Allied Professions.



Alexandra Robinson '08 coordinates the Dayton Civic Scholars Program.

PARTNERING WITH DAYTON EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY


BY SACHA R. FRANCIS, GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Dayton Early College Academy (DECA) lives in the University of Dayton's College Park Center, a short downhill walk from the heart of main campus. Since 2003, DECA has strived to prepare urban students to attend and graduate from college, many of whom will become the first in their families to do so. From the beginning, DECA and UD students have benefited from a variety of opportunities to learn from each other. This term the Fitz Center hopes to strengthen that rapport by dedicating a volunteer to cultivating the relationship between the two schools.

Patrick Boston '12 stepped into the volunteer role upon returning to campus in August and immediately began work with a handful of DECA sophomores who've committed to a project in the Sustainable Garden Classroom at Wegerzyn MetroParks. Patrick's overarching goal is to collaborate with DECA's Community Involvement Director,

Anne Rasmussen, as she connects her students to service and internship opportunities in the greater Dayton area. The garden project serves as an entrée to DECA student mentoring for Patrick and future Fitz Center student affiliates. During the first several weeks of the term, Patrick will work closely with Ms. Rasmussen to develop an intern job description that can carry the relationship forward.

Ms. Rasmussen hopes to retain Patrick in an intern capacity when she and her students embark on the 2011-12 installment of a cooperative project with former Ohio Gov. **Bob Taft**. This year's topic is expected to focus on the multifaceted subject of immigration in Dayton. As a dual major in international studies and communication, Patrick will be able to connect his academic studies in a way that deepens the relationship between UD and DECA. The liaison role that is developing is

another example of the Fitz Center's commitment to bolstering community assets in the city of Dayton. 

Patrick Boston (below) volunteers with DECA sophomores. (Bottom) DECA students celebrate at graduation.




A TRIBUTE TO PATTERSON KENNEDY SCHOOL

BY JOANNE TROHA, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE LEARNING

Patterson Kennedy School bid farewell to families, staff and community this June, closing a chapter in Dayton history that began 120 years ago. Children now attend buildings closer to their homes as Dayton Public Schools continues to realign the district around neighborhoods. The longtime UD neighbor will be sorely missed.

Only a 10-minute walk from campus, PK regularly hosted UD students from the Fitz Center, School of Education and Allied Professions, departments of sociology and languages, service clubs like UD's Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and many others. Much of the Fitz Center's current work with Dayton's five Neighborhood School Centers can be traced to lessons learned through UD-PK initiatives.

Following is an excerpt from a UD student tribute by **Rita Uhlenlake '09** that the Fitz Center delivered to all teachers and staff on their last day at Patterson Kennedy School. 



To our friends at Patterson Kennedy,

Over the years Patterson Kennedy children, teachers and staff have sent many thank-you notes to the University of Dayton. We want you to know that we are equally grateful.

Thank you for the warm welcome and professional guidance you provided to hundreds of our students. Whether they met you in service-learning assignments or as volunteers, so many UD students describe PK's lasting impact on them. Enclosed are sample comments from UD students. For many of us, PK was unique and special, and we will miss our next-door neighbors! At the same time, we look forward to seeing PK children and teachers at other schools. Thank you for being our partners in education. May the future bring each of you peace and fulfillment.

"My time tutoring at PK taught me how important it is for students who fall behind to have personalized help. Furthermore, it has piqued my interest in refugee affairs," wrote Laura Huber, current sophomore in international studies.

Four years with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and a class assignment in adapted physical education led Anne Prier to say: "These kids have a lot going on in their lives and have just such a different childhood than I ever had. ... I am thankful for the experience, and I learned that care, compassion and understanding go a long way"

"It was very humbling at times. ... [Nevertheless, my PK experiences gave me great insight into the lives of a few students with exceptional potential in a formative stage. I will cherish the memories I have of the people that made PK what it was." Chris Lemon first volunteered, then earned credit, at PK over a two-year period. In fall 2011 he began teaching in Mexico on a Fulbright Scholarship.



Rita Uhlenlake (pictured above left) earned service-learning credit helping ESL students at PK. Now the experience impacts her work on behalf of Spanish-speaking families at nearby Immaculate Conception School. Many students formerly attending Patterson Kennedy began their year at Cleveland PK-8 (above right), one of five Neighborhood School Centers in Dayton.

RIVER STEWARDS LEAD THE WAY BY LESLIE KING, COORDINATOR, RIVERS INSTITUTE

After a busy summer, the Rivers Institute welcomed the school year with a new website, new projects and a new cohort of River Stewards. In the past two years, Rivers Institute summers have become a busy time for programming, internships and fun. River Stewards have had the opportunity to live and work together, to create a stronger community among themselves and also to build community around Dayton and its rivers, a place they have all grown to love and call home.

A long-awaited project tackled this summer is the Rivers Institute's website. River Steward and visual communication design major **Jenny Biette** took what she has been learning in the classroom to create a clean, new look for the Institute. Take a minute to visit rivers.udayton.edu and explore the many ways we work to achieve our vision of reuniting Dayton and its rivers.

Ohio's Great Corridor Association (OGCA) also benefited from the energy of the River Stewards this summer. **AJ Ferguson's** internship supported their efforts to market our region as a destination for tourism and recreation, by creating a website in collaboration

with Schlegel Creative. AJ was able to bring many ideas to the OGCA from his previous internship experiences with Sustainable Pittsburgh.

The McGregor-funded River Leadership Curriculum (RLC) was another focus of the summer. As the Rivers Institute moves into the third and final year of the grant, interns **Nicole Goettemoeller** and **Lindsay Rynne** were supervised by **Sarah Peterson**, Rivers Institute graduate assistant. The RLC interns were charged with revising last year's syllabus and schedule. After weeks of research, interviews and revision, ASI River Leadership I & II are ready to be offered this academic year for the second time.


Through a series of watershed education programs, community floats and river camps, the Rivers Institute physically brought more than 125 people to the river this summer, with a little help from everyone, especially **Maggie Varga '11**, **Alex Galluzzo** and **Bethany Renner**. Whether it was website design, curriculum development or education outreach, the River Steward interns developed leadership skills, gained valuable professional experiences and



Senior River Stewards organized a 25-mile round-trip bike ride to Miamisburg and Twin Creek MetroPark as part of their senior project.

created lasting memories, while running the Rivers Institute this summer.

Finally, in August, the Rivers Institute greeted the new 2014 cohort for their first River Stewards Orientation, including the 17-mile paddle down the Great Miami River. Thanks to senior River Steward **Laura Mustee**, who spent the summer organizing orientation, each cohort had an amazing experience. The new Stewards immersed themselves in Dayton and our local watershed for five days. The juniors continued to the next stage of kayak training, worked together on a low-ropes challenge course and brainstormed ideas for their senior project. Meanwhile, the seniors focused on their senior project, a UD bike-share program in partnership with RecPlex and Student Development, and spent a few days biking and camping along the Great Miami Recreation Trail.

For more information about the senior project, email river-stews-senior-project@googlegroups.com. 



The 2014 cohort of River Stewards prepare for the 17-mile paddle down the Great Miami River.

FITZ CENTER INTRODUCES CALLINGS PARTICIPANTS TO DAYTON'S ASSETS

BY VERONICA PAULSON, GRADUATE ASSISTANT

This summer, Campus Ministry's Program for Christian Leadership brought nearly 100 incoming first-year students to campus for a weeklong workshop called *Callings* that focused on the theme of "Learn. Lead. Serve." As a portion of their orientation to the University and the city of Dayton, these incoming students had the opportunity to interact with members of the Fitz Center team to discuss asset-based community building and to visit specific assets within the city. **Dick Ferguson, Sacha Ramirez Francis, and Veronica Paulson** planned and facilitated sessions that allowed the *Callings* participants to discuss their own experiences of community service and how those experiences might carry over to their lives at UD.

With this in mind, these first-year students were led on tours of the city that

divided them into five groups and took each group to three destinations in Dayton. At each site, participants were able to interact with staff and volunteers who develop the assets and meet the basic needs of citizens of the city of Dayton. These interactions and experiences motivated and empowered the students to find assets within their surroundings and to leverage those assets to meet the needs of the community. The encounters also influenced the students to be involved within the city during the first

year of college and beyond.

These summer sessions not only proved as a great source of collaboration on campus but also demonstrated the University's Marianist commitment to learning, leading and serving. At the conclusion of their *Callings* experience, many participants reflected on the significance of the sessions with the Fitz Center as an eye-opening and inspiring way to begin their commitment as faithful Flyers. 



Nearly 100 incoming first-year students attended the Program for Christian Leadership's *Callings* program this summer.

Following his own calling

After serving alongside **Joanne Troha** in the Fitz Center's community-based service-learning program last year, **Mike Bennett** has been empowered to pursue a graduate assistantship in Campus Ministry working with the Program for Christian Leadership. Mike enjoyed working with the hundreds of University students who volunteered within the Neighborhood School Centers, as well as those many faculty members at the schools with whom Mike collaborated. He will now be focusing his energies on the *Callings* program for incoming first-year students, as well as retreats and small faith communities during the academic year. Mike will graduate in August 2012 with a master's degree in theological studies and many well-rounded experiences within the University and city of Dayton.

FAIRVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE PROGRESS

BY DON VERMILLION, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROJECTS

August 2011 will be remembered as an important month in the life of the Fairview neighborhood in Dayton. On Tuesday, Aug. 2, the neighborhood participated in the *National Night Out* community celebration. *National Night Out* is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. **Lt. Mike Wilhelm** and members of the community policing program in the Phoenix Project area attended

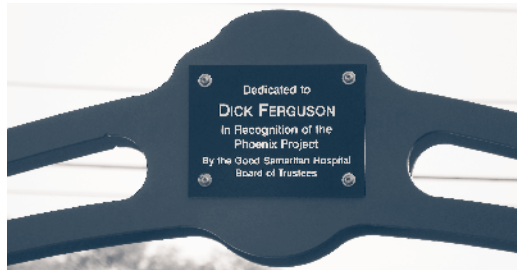
the event. The evening included free swimming, spray park excitement, and a community cookout that drew a large turnout.

Project leaders recognized **Dick Ferguson**'s sustained support for the Neighborhood School Center and community park concept as a Good Samaritan Board member by dedicating a community swing bearing his name as part of the evening's festivities. The resulting Fairview Commons public space already has seen great activity this summer and will be an important piece

of this Dayton neighborhood's future. Sister **Carol Bauer** represented Good Samaritan Hospital at the dedication, which provided the funds for the community swing and much of the Fairview Commons project.

After years of planning, Fairview PK-8 School at Fairview Commons' students returned on Aug. 17 to a new, state-of-the-art building located along Elmsmere Avenue extending to Hillcrest Avenue. The old Fairview Elementary School building will be demolished with the grounds becoming an extension of the Fairview Commons.

Dick Ferguson has community-based police officers test the swing at Fairview Commons. Seated, from left, are Officer Ron Gustwiller, Lt. Mike Wilhelm and Officer Matt Heiser. The dedication plaque is shown right.



On Aug. 28, the community celebrated the formal dedication of Fairview PK-8 Neighborhood School Center as one of the Phase 3 school buildings in Dayton Public Schools' construction program. Superintendent **Lori Ward** and Fairview Principal **Shari Hoskins** both spoke at the dedication ceremony of the importance of a strong relationship among the school, community partners and the surrounding neighborhood. The University of Dayton, the Fitz Center and the School of Education and Allied Professions have pledged ongoing support in making sustained improvement in the academic achievement of the students at Fairview PK-8 School at Fairview Commons.

Kevin Jones, chairman of the Fair River Oaks Priority Board, and **Thelma Patterson**, chairwoman of the Fairview Neighborhood Association, regularly speak with pride about the transformation of their community and the great working relationship that the neighborhood has developed with its institutional partners. The Fitz Center is proud to be part of this important Dayton neighborhood's transformation and looks forward to a bright future for the children and families who call it home. 

SEMINAR PRACTICES LEADERSHIP THAT BUILDS COMMUNITY


BY DON VERMILLION, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROJECTS

Now in its 17th year, the *Leadership in Building Communities* seminar offered by the Fitz Center will focus its attention on four neighborhoods along the Wolf Creek in Innerwest Dayton. The project will include the Wolf Creek Helping Hands, Ole Dayton View, Jane Reece and Dayton View Historic neighborhoods. Partners who will contribute to the seminar include Jane Reece Neighborhood Association, Ole Dayton View Neighborhood Association, Dayton View Historic Association, Northwest Priority Board, Innerwest Priority Board, Edison PK-8 Neighborhood School Center and Richard Allen School.

The objectives of the annual seminar are to document and report on neighborhood projects and progress for the benefit of the neighborhoods, the city of Dayton, Montgomery County and the Fitz Center; to practice the facilitative art of leadership in building communities as students and instructors; and to facilitate a better understanding of the elements of successful comprehensive neighborhood redevelopment and community building. Graduate and undergraduate students and **Brother Ray Fitz, S.M., Dick Ferguson** and **Don Vermillion** will work in three teams over the course of the semester to research and write a description of redevelopment and community building in the neighborhoods over the past 10 years and to complete a planning framework for the next two to five years.

The final products of the seminar are a written report and presentation by the teams for the Social Science Research Symposium on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3, and for invited neighborhood partners and community guests on Wednesday, Dec. 7. The reports produced must demonstrate firsthand

knowledge of the neighborhoods attained through face-to-face group meetings and personal interviews. The teams must provide evidence of this in their reports.

The *Leadership in Building Communities* seminar has collaborated with many Dayton neighborhoods throughout its history. 

The Wolf Creek enters the Great Miami River near downtown Dayton.




YEAR	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNER
1995	Edgemont Twin Towers	Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition St. Mary's Development Corporation
1996	Southern Dayton View	M. L. King (multiple associations)
1997	MacFarlane Springfield	MacFarlane Neighborhood Association St. Mary's Development Corporation
1998	Fairgrounds	Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association
1999	Rubicon Park District	
2000	Huffman South Park	Huffman NDC Historic South Park, Inc.
2001	Edgemont Twin Towers	Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition East End Community Services
2002	Dayton View Fairgrounds	Dayton View CDC (multiple) Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association
2003	Wright-Dunbar/ Wolf Creek	Wright-Dunbar, Inc.
2004	Grafton Hill/Five Oaks/ Riverdale	Grandview Hospital/Renaissance Alliance
2005	Old North Dayton/ McCook Field	Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association/McCook Field Neighborhood Association
2006	Walnut Hills	Walnut Hills Association
2007	Carillon	Carillon Civic Council
2008	Wright Dunbar/Wolf Creek MacFarlane/West Third St.	Wright-Dunbar, Inc and the neighborhood associations
2009	Phoenix Project, East End, and Historic South Park	Multiple partners
2010	Old North Dayton/ McCook Field	Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association/McCook Field Neighborhood Association

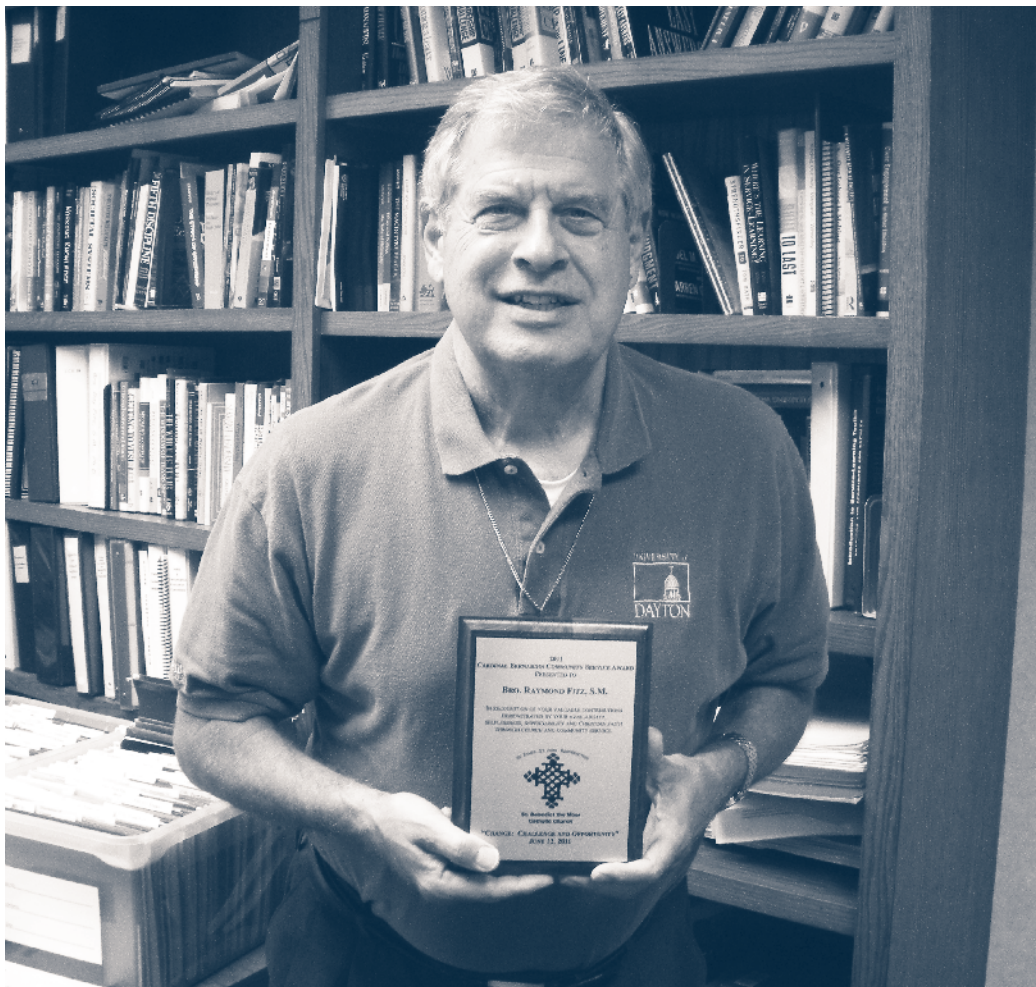
SELFLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE BY CAMERON FULLAM

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church of Dayton honored **Brother Ray Fitz, S.M.**, with the Cardinal Bernardin Community Service Award at banquet this past June. The award honors individuals who are models of giving to others and to the community without any expectation of recognition. Honorees step in when and where needed because it is part of their make-up and giving nature, according to the church's press release.

Brother Ray currently serves as the Ferree Professor of Social Justice at the University of Dayton, a role he assumed after serving as the University's president from 1979-2002. He works closely with the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, which partners with local organizations to leverage the University's resources and students to meet community needs. He has taught

courses in leadership in building community; regional development, politics, and social justice; and Christianity, citizenship and society; and he mentors the University's Graduate Community Fellows.

Brother Ray remains very involved in the greater Dayton community. Some of the organizations he works with include the Dayton Public School Community Advisory Council, the Family and Children First Council, the Homeless Solutions Leadership Team and the city's Neighborhood School Centers. He also remains active with the Marianist community and works closely with Catholic organizations, serving with the Catholic Education Collaborative, Chaminade-Julienne and the Marianist Leadership Development Program. 



Graduate Community Fellows program now cost sharing

BY DON VERMILLION,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROJECTS

Over the past three years, the Graduate Community Fellows Program at the University of Dayton has provided 12 graduate students with a comprehensive experience in key nonprofit organizations in the Dayton community while they have completed the course work required for their graduate degrees. The academic programs of the graduate students have included clinical psychology, public administration, school counseling, community counseling and educational leadership. Samaritan Behavioral Health, Life Essentials, Dakota Center, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, Catholic Education Collaborative, Daybreak, Dayton Christian Center, Cityfolk's Culture Builds Community, Adventure Central and the Dayton Foundation are the nonprofit partners that have participated.

The program has been revised to include a financial contribution from the nonprofit partners in addition to the supervision that is provided to the graduate students during their 20 hour onsite weekly work experience over a two-year period. During the 2011-12 school year, Daybreak and the Neighborhood School Centers will begin this new partnership arrangement with the Fitz Center.

Brother Ray remains very involved in the Dayton community.


FITZ CENTER OFFERS BUS TOURS OF DAYTON

BY VERONICA PAULSON, GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Since the donation of a retired RTA bus to the University of Dayton last year, the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community has been utilizing this gift as an opportunity to break people out of the “UD bubble” and get them out into Dayton. So far, the Fitz Center has organized and hosted tours for the Dayton Civic Scholars, the River Stewards, the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute, Leadership UD, the University Ambassadors and the incoming new faculty members.

Each tour is a unique experience for the group partaking in it. Group leaders determine where they want to go in the city and the Fitz Center includes important sites around Dayton where students often volunteer, such as the

Neighborhood School Centers. Tours last two to four hours and cost \$25 an hour for the entire group. The River Stewards are planning to offer several tours this fall to students who are interested in the city’s relationship to the Great Miami River and Watershed. A Neighborhood City Schools tour is also in the works.

University faculty are encouraged to include tours in their syllabi as a unique opportunity for students to apply concepts learned in the classroom to the urban environment in which they live. Questions regarding these tours should be directed to **Veronica Paulson**, graduate assistant, at 229-5430. 

IN APPRECIATION

Shirley Benson, mother of Dean Paul Benson of the College of Arts and Sciences, was a great friend of the Fitz Center. When we learned of Shirley’s death on Aug. 2, we were sad but mindful of the wonderful life and family that she surely enjoyed. Her family’s request that memorial gifts be made to the Semester of Service is greatly appreciated.

A few years ago, Shirley learned about the Semester of Service from Paul. Since then, Shirley and her husband, Howard, have been loyal and generous in supporting UD students working in the community as participants in this program. She was a faithful reader of this *Community Leader* newsletter, especially the published reflections of the Semester of Service students.



The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community uses the retired RTA bus often to take UD students and staff on tours of Dayton’s many assets.

The FitzCenter for Leadership in Community

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FITZ CENTER WELCOMES GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Colin Gerker

Hello! I graduated from Chaminade College Preparatory, a Marianist school in St. Louis, Mo. Impressed by the framework of the characteristics of Marianist education, I decided to attend the University of Dayton and thus join my father (Class of 1982), uncle (Class of 1974) and two cousins (Classes 2011 and 2012) in the UD legacy. I am beginning my second year of studies to obtain a master's in education with a professional counseling license. My work in the Fitz Center supports service learning and Dayton's Neighborhood School Centers.

Charles Roberts

Before joining the Fitz Center family, I served for 11 years as a trombonist in the U.S. Air Force Band, one year as an instructor at the Airman Leadership School, and one year as a fourth-grade teacher. I am currently pursuing an M.S. Ed. in Community Counseling. When I'm not studying or facilitating the service-learning experiences for Semester of Service students, I am a husband and a father of four children.



<http://fitzcenter.udayton.edu>